IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.(original): A process of producing an ethylenically unsaturated amide, wherein a nitrile is treated with an enzyme which is a nitrile hydratase in an aqueous medium, characterised in that
the nitrile hydratase is obtainable from a microorganism of the Dietzia genus.

2. (original): A process of producing an ammonium salt of an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, wherein an amide is treated with an enzyme which is an amidase in an aqueous medium, characterised in that
the amidase is obtainable from a microorganism of the Dietzia genus.

3. (original):A process according to claim 1 in which the ethylenically unsaturated nitrile is (meth) acrylonitrile.

4. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~ in which the ethylenically unsaturated amide is (meth) acrylamide.

5. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 2 ~~to 4~~ in which the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is (meth) acrylic acid.

6. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~ in which the enzyme is comprised within whole cells of the microorganism.

7. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~ in which the microorganism is a species of Dietzia selected from the group consisting of Dietzia spp., Dietzia natronolimnaios, Dietzia maris and Dietzia psychralcaliphila.

8. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~ in which the microorganism is Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.

9. (original): Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.

10. (original):Nitrile hydratase enzyme obtainable by culturing Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.

11.(original): Amidase enzyme obtainable by culturing Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.